

C. Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A bar connector assembly comprising a body having a bar seat section and a bar retainer moveable transversely relative to the seat section ~~to enable entry of a bar into the assembly~~, the seat section being adapted to receive and position a second bar relative to ~~an adjacent~~ a first bar already connected to the assembly, and the retainer being transversely moveable relative to the bar seat section between a first position allowing the second bar to be placed on the seat section and a second position ~~to block blocking~~ removal of the second bar from the assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A connector assembly according to claim 1 for connecting together opposed reinforcement bars wherein at least one of the bars comprises a loop section, the body of the connector assembly comprising a main body and the retainer comprising a separate bridging member, the~~ A bar connector assembly for connecting together a pair of oppositely extending bars, at least one of which has a loop section, said assembly comprising a main body having a bar seat section and a bar retainer moveable transversely relative to the seat section between a position opening the bar seat section for insertion of the loop section of bar and a position blocking the seat section from insertion or removal of the loop section of a bar, according to claim 1 said main body having an opening, the and said seat section comprising a loop section seat accessible through the opening so that the loop section of a bar may be secured to the main body when positioned on the loop section seat, the said retainer being a bridging member being adapted to bridge across the opening of the main body when it is coupled to the main body;

the other bar being otherwise connected to the main body opposite the loop section seat in said blocking position and having a rigid portion being located to be positioned between the bars in said blocking position, the relative dimensions of the bars, the main body and the bridging member being ~~so chosen and arranged~~ selected such that a said rigid portion of the assembly is located between the bars in said blocking position to resist compressive forces which may tend to force the bars toward each other and ~~a further rigid section of the assembly is located in the loop section to~~ seat ~~resists~~ deformation of the loop section when under tension.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the seat section comprises an upstanding land having a curved channel into which a curved the loop section of a bar is positioned; ~~the channel being a the boundary of an upstanding land filling the inside of the curved section~~ so that upon a load being applied to the bar in tension, the land section aids in retaining the bar in position and inhibits its deformation.

7. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 1-2 wherein the retainer comprises ~~an edgeway~~ a slidable member ~~able~~ adapted to slide into the body ~~after the transversely to a bar has been inserted; in said main body, whereby the bar in combination with the seat section and, the retainer serving and the rigid portion of the assembly serve~~ to secure the retainer and thereby the bar in position in the seat section.

8. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 1-2 wherein the retainer bridges across ~~opposite sides of the body~~ said opening such that the main body and retainer have at least one of the bars located between them.

9. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 1-2 wherein the assembly is symmetrical so that two identically shaped ~~curved bars are~~ bar loop sections of separate bars may be connected together by the assembly with the bars so connected together occupying a common plane.

10. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 1-2 wherein the assembly is symmetrical so that ~~two identically shaped curved bars are connected together by the assembly with the bars so connected together occupying a common plane, the bars being~~ main body has two symmetrically positioned seat sections adapted to receive U-shaped ends loop sections of projecting rebars.

11. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guide and guideway being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

12. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guide being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

13. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guideway being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

14. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim ~~1~~2 wherein ~~any gaps between the bars are filled by the assembly~~ said rigid portion of the assembly is dimensioned to engage both bars mounted therein so that compressive movement of the bars is blocked, ~~and the said assembly~~ [[is]] being symmetrical in side view with the body resisting tension on one side and the retainer bridging the opposite side to resist tension so that force applied to the bars is distributed evenly through the assembly.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Amended) A connector assembly according to claim 1 wherein the ~~second bar is curved~~ and the retainer is shaped to be wedged against the second bar.

17. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim ~~1~~2 wherein the assembly has two opposed seats ~~and both bars are curved having curved sections for respectively receiving the looped ends of two opposed bars in confronting relation when located in operative position and the said~~ retainer is includes said rigid portion which is dimensioned to be wedged between the bars.

18. (Currently Amended) A connector assembly according to claim ~~1~~2 wherein the assembly has two opposed seats defined ~~as the inner peripheral portion of by~~ opposed lands and both bars are curved having curved sections having opposing peripheral surfaces shaped to respectively receive the looped ends of a pair of bars in confronting relation and wrapped around the respective lands when located in operative position and the and said retainer is wedged between the bars applying in said blocking position to apply an outward force to the bars and bridges across the lands applying an inward force to each of the lands tending to prevent separation of the lands when tensioned.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guide and guideway being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

28. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guide being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

29. (Original) A connector assembly according to claim 2 wherein the main body includes a retainer guideway and the retainer has a guide that travels on the guideway, the guideway being tapered so that the retainer is wedged in position.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Cancelled).

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Cancelled).